



The Cultural Politics of Homeland Security: Negotiating Muslim Identities After Sept. 11

This project is motivated by the premise that the experience of the Muslims in the U.S. after 9/11 can profoundly affect the effectiveness of U.S. homeland security policies and measures in the long run. The project seeks to understand how Muslim identities are negotiated in the especially hostile environment in the U.S. after 9/11, and how individual and community predicaments involved in such negotiations can be destabilizing without being properly understood and addressed at the level of national politics. It intends to shed light on the cultural politics pertinent to the contestations over meanings and interpretations of issues about homeland security.

The project also attempts to identify the political and institutional possibilities for promoting understanding and reducing hostility between groups or individuals. Its findings will provide insight for a more informed and viable security agenda that is attentive to the potential negative impact of anti-Muslim hate crimes and counter-terrorist measures. The project will examine the experience of Muslim residents in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Data will be collected from local Muslim organizations and samples of Muslim households and individuals in each study area through mail surveys and in-depth interviews.

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